

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 02845 222315Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 IO-14 OIC-04 AEC-11 OMB-01

SAM-01 DRC-01 /152 W

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5848

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 2845

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: SPC MAY 21 DISCUSSION OF DATA

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

REF: USNATO 2746

SUMMARY: SPC ON MORNING OF MAY 21 RETURNED TO DATA QUESTION.
DISCUSSION CONTINUED ON GENERAL LEVEL, PENDING MBFR WORKING GROUP
ACTION ON DATA PACKAGE THAT AFTERNOON. SEE SEPTTEL.
END SUMMARY

1. UK REP STRESSED THAT ALLIES SHOULD BE SURE OF NEW FIGURES
AND OF POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF CHANGING OLD FIGURES PRIOR TO
RELEASE TO WP. HE SAW DANGER TO ALLIED CREDIBILITY HERE. INTER-
NATIONAL MILITARY STAFF (IMS) REP OBSERVED HOWEVER THAT WE WERE
NOT TALKING ABOUT INCORRECT VS CORRECT FIGURES, BUT FIGURES
SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 02845 222315Z

DERIVED FROM A DIFFERENT BASIS OF COUNTING. THE HIGHER WESTERN
GROUND FORCE FIGURE WHICH WORKING GROUP HAS DERIVED COMES
MAINLY FROM 20,000 GERMAN JOINT SERVICE PERSONNEL AND 7,000
DUTCH SHORT LEAVE PERSONNEL. BELGIAN REP AGREED WITH UK ON NEED

FOR CARE IN PRESERVING ALLIED CREDIBILITY, AND THOUGHT NATO GUIDANCE SHOULD PROVIDE AHG WITH FLEXIBILITY. U.S. REP SAID THERE WAS NO NEED TO BE EMBARRASSED ABOUT CHANGING FIGURES, IF THAT WERE THE DECISION, AND SUPPORTED MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY FOR AHG.

2. UK REP SAID UK "NOT YET HAPPY" OVER PROSPECTS OF RAISING COMMON CEILING (E.G. FROM 700,000 TO 725,000) DUE TO HIGHER WESTERN GROUND FORCE FIGURE. HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY WITH PUBLIC OPINION. BELGIUM POINTED OUT ALLIES IN NEGOTIATING MANDATE C-M(73)83 AGREED TO SEEK COMMON CEILING OF "APPROXIMATELY" 700,000 MEN, SO THEY SHOULD HAVE NO DIFFICULTY IN INCREASING CEILING TO 725,000. HOWEVER, ALLIED AGREEMENT TO REDUCE FORCES BY APPROXIMATELY TEN PERCENT MEANS ALLIES SHOULD NOT TAKE CUTS GREATER THAN TEN PERCENT FROM THE HIGHER-THAN-EXPECTED FORCE LEVELS IN ORDER TO REACH THE OLD COMMON CEILING OF 700,000. DUTCH REP SAID NETHERLANDS ALSO TAKES AS POINT OF DEPARTURE THE TEN PERCENT CONCEPT.

3. RE AIR MANPOWER, UK REP SAID ALLIES MUST BE ABLE COMPARE LIKE WP AND NATO FIGURES. UK PROPOSED MEETING OF INTELLIGENCE EXPERTS IN BRUSSELS TO PRODUCE AGREED REPORT ON THESE AND OTHER DIFFICULTIES FOR SPC CONSIDERATION. IMS REP QUESTIONED NEED FOR SUCH A MEETING, POINTING OUT THAT ONLY FRG, UK AND U.S. HAD GOOD INTELLIGENCE ON WP, AND MBFR WORKING GROUP IN PROCESS OF RESOLVING THE DIFFERENCES. BELGIAN REP SAID AHG FOR THE MOMENT DOES NOT URGENTLY NEED A BREAKDOWN OF AIR FORCE MANPOWER FOR THE OTHER SIDE, BUT THE TOTAL NUMBER ON OUR SIDE AND THE OTHER SIDE. U.S. REP STRESSED NEED FOR EARLY RESPONSE TO AHG DATA REQUEST, AND EXPRESSED PERSONAL RESERVATION ON UK SUGGESTION RE INTELLIGENCE EXPERTS MEETING.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: MISSION PLANS TO TAKE NEGATIVE STANCE ON UK SUGGESTION RE INTELLIGENCE EXPERTS MEETING, IF THE MATTER COMES UP AGAIN, UNLESS WASHINGTON ADVISES TO THE CONTRARY.
MCAULIFFE

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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